RAJYA SABHA

Friday the 14th March, 1997/23 Phalguna, 1918(Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Veerendra Patil a former Member of this House, early this morning, at Bangalore at the age of 73.

Born in February, 1924, Shri Veerendra Patil was educated at Gulbarga Government High School and Osmania University. A lawyer by profession, Shri Veerendra Patil actively participated in the freedom movement. He was associated with several social welfare organisations and worked for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Veerendra Patil started his legislative career as a Member of the erstwhile Hyderabad Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1956. He was also Member of the erstwhile State of Mysore—now Karnataka—Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1971 and served as Minister in the Mysore Government holding important portfolios. Thereafter, he became the Chief Minister of Mysore State from 1968 to 1971. Later he also served as Chief Minister of the Karnataka State for a second term.

Shri Veerendra Patil represented the State of Mysore—now Karnataka—in this House from April, 1972 to April, 1978 and was also a Member of the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas. Shri Patil was also Member of the Indian delegation to U.S.S.R. in 1965 and of the Parliamentary delegation to West Germany in 1973. He also served as Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shipping and Transport and Labour and Rehabilitation in the Union Council of Ministers.

In the passing away of Shri Veerendra Patil, the country has lost a distinguished Parliamentarian and an able administrator.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Veerendra Patil.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*281. *[The Questioner (Dr. D. Venkateshwar Rao) was absent. For answer vide column.....infra]*

Environment-Friendly Pest Control Measures

282. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the environment-friendly pest control measures being practised in our country;

(b) the steps taken to encourage and boost them; and

(c) the response of the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Sir, the environment-friendly pest control measures being promoted by the Government fall under the ambit of Inte-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagir Singh Dard.

grated Pest Management (IPM), which in the present form commenced from 1994-95. IPM advocates preferential use of non-chemical means, such as proper cultural practices, sowing of resistant/tolerant varieties and adoption of mechanical and biological control measures. Some important examples are given in the Statement-I.

(b) The steps taken to encourage and boost environment-friendly IPM approach are as under:

(i) Regular pest surveillance and monitoring on major crops for forewarning pest and disease development.

(ii) Central assistance to the States for setting up of State Bio-Control Laboratories.

(iii) Training and education of extension functionaries and farmers through on-farm demonstrations. During 1994-96, 4,692 on-farm demonstrations (Farmers' Field Schools) have been organised wherein 21,145 extension officers and 1,40,068 farmers have been trained.

(iv) Intensifying research efforts to develop IPM packages/practices.

(v) Mass awareness about IPM through publicity programmes.

(c) Even though experience with IPM is relatively new, there has been encouraging response from the farmers.

Statement-I

Some important examples of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Measures.

Sl. No.	Crop	Pest	IPM measures
1.	Paddy	Brown Plant Hopper, Stemborer, Gallmidge	Resistant/tolerant varieties, water management, conservation of spiders, release of Trichogramma (parasite), use of neem-based pesticides.
2.	Cotton	Heliothis, Whitefly	Mechanical collection of larvae and moths, release of Chrysoperla (predator), Braconid parasites, use of biocides (Nuclear polyhedrosis virus, Bacilus thuringiensis)
3.	Sugarcane	Pyrilla, Stemborers	Conservation and augmentation of natural parasite (Epiricania), release of Trichogramma.

श्री जागीर सिंह "दर्द": सभापति महोदय, मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो जवाब दिया है, मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूं कि मैं उससे सेटिस्फाइड हूं, इसलिए मैं कोई सप्लीमेंटरी नहीं करना चाहता।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar.

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Are you also satisfied with the Minister's reply?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will always have a question.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: The Minister is doing very good work in this field. But I would like to put my supplementary question. In your reply you have given examples of Integrated Pest Management measures that you have taken. In the case of

paddy, it is Brown Plant Hopper, Stemborer and Gallmidge. For cotton, it is Heliothis and Whitefly. For sugarcane, it is Pyrilla, Stemborers, etc. Sir, the Bio-Technology Consortium India Limited in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has taken up this project, developing bio-pesticides, on a very vast scale. They have developed the technology in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and they have developed various types of bio-pesticides. Unfortunately, in this reply, with respect to paddy, cotton and sugarcane in the measures which you have given, all the technology developed by the Agricultural University has not been included. So, Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether Government is aware that such a big project is going on in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, that they have developed several strains and that they are now doing their control studies and some commercial exploitation has also been done. Does the Government know this and if the Government knows this, will something be done in this regard to enrich this list.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, it is a fact that Tamil Nadu University is doing something. Our own institutions under the ICAR are also doing something. But the point is, we are concerned with millions and millions of farmers and so far we have started only in 1994-95. So it is very limited. That way it is very insignificant, if you look into the number of farmers and the area to be covered. That is why I have said that much has to be done despite the fact that rtesearches are done. It has not gone to the fields. It will take much time. So I will need the cooperation of the Members and see how we can take it to the farmers. But I welcome the learned Member's suggestion, we will further improve the matter.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, we will give you all our cooperation, you are doing excellent work and you are giving us all these schemes. We are coming to know what schemes are there in agriculture. You take our help and there are so many Members who are interested in agriculture and all the Members will help you. Sir, there was a question put by me, a Starred Question on 8th March 1996. In reply to the question, the Minister has said that there is lack of trained master trainers for different crops and inadequate supply of bio-controlled agents. While in the Annual Report of Agriculture, they say that during the period under Report, 1632 millions of bio-control agents have been mass produced and released against the annual target of 1,500 million; they crossed the target. Under this programme 4.23 lakh hectares have been covered against the annual target of 3.5 lakh hectares. There also they say they have exceeded the target. In the reply they say that there is a lack of trained master trainers and inadequate supply of bio-control agents. Now in a vast country they have trained only 496 master trainers. So, what is your plan to train more and more master trainers because he wants to take it to the farm. If you want to take this to the farm, you will require master trainers in thousands. I do not say you reeruit them or employ them; take voluntary enthusiasts from the villages and train them. Do you have any plan in this regard? What is your plan fopr making good the inadequate supply?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, the point is, now this Plan period has ended. A concrete plan will be worked out only in the Ninth Plan. The Approach Papers are ready. Now we are concretising it and we will certainly welcome your suggestions. You give them and I am ready to respond to them.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister wanted support of the hon. Members for the purpose of propagating integrated pest management. I think the hon. Minister has not fully read his answer. He said in the last para, even though the experience with IPM is relatively new, there has

been encouraging response from the farmers. Therefore, Sir, it is the department that has to take the integrated pest control programme to the farmers.

I know personally that in Bangalore a farmer, using natural manure and neem, was able to produce a very good crop. In Western countries also, we find that the integrated pest management is observed and crops are produced using natural manure. The hon. Minister says that the Central Government has a scheme for giving assistance to the States for setting up State biocontrol laboratories. But the process is very slow. The State Governments are not being encouraged by the Agriculture Ministry for taking up the Integrated Pest Management scheme, for doing research work within the State or for taking technology from other States and also from the ICAR so as to educate and inform the farming community. I would specifically like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the total assistance given to the States under this scheme for the purpose of setting up of State-level laboratories. The quantum of assistance would reflect the sincerity of the Central Government to implement the scheme.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, so far very few laboratories have taken up this programme. I am stating the real position. I have mentioned in my reply that we have just started it. I have also stated that it is only in relation to paddy, cotton and sugarcane that farmers have responded very favourably. They are using it. But it is not on a large scale. If the State Governments come forward, if the universities come forward, we are sure to help them. As I told you, I will concretise the scheme in the 9th Plan. I agree with the suggestion that the State universities should be involved to do this. It is simply impossible for the Central Government alone to do this. Agriculture is a State Subject. But I am ready to help the State Governments.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, as far as the Integrated Pest Management is concerned, I find that one of the very serious problems has been the way the multinational agribusiness firms are functioning. They are vigorously promoting use of pesticides. Sometimes, they are promoting use of pesticides to such an extent that farmers are using them more than what is necessary. At the same time at a heavy cost to themselves. And they are completely upsetting the ecological balance, the food chain particularly. I remeber one particular case. It happened in two districts of Andhra Pradesh—Prakasham and Guntur. These two districts have a lot of cotton-growing farmers. They were advised by these multinational companies to target a particular pest in a particular year. That pest was completely eliminated by their pesticides. But a second order pest which was suppressed by that targetted pest grew suddenly and very rapidly and within two weeks it completely destroyed the crop which led to such a big disaster that about 30 farmers committed suicide in that area. What I am saying is that it is one thing to develop environment-friendly measures in the way the Minister has described it. But what is he going to do to save the ignorant farmers, the not-so-educated peasantry from the onslaught of the multinational firms which are out to promote particular pesticides without caring much for environment protection or ecological balance or food chain? I would like to have a specific answer for this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: The question is, it is not only the multinationals but others also who are doing like this. I am thankful to the two hon. Members, the learned Members, for putting this question. It put me on alert. Only yesterday I asked my Ministry to initiate a legislation to counter this problem. It is intended to save the farmers in that if by the use of a spurious pesticide the crops of the farmers are damaged, the company concerned will have to pay

for the cost of the damaged crops. I have initiated that. I have taken steps in that direction. I am very thankful to the hon. Members who have put this question. Otherwise, I was also sleeping.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Have you educated the farmers that they do not need to use more than what is required?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Education of farmers is going on. But we should also take some punitive action against erring companies. So far as education of farmers is concerned, we are asking the State universities also to work for that. Some schemes have already been worked out. I have stated this in my reply. We have given Rs. 50 lakhs for each biocontrol laboratory. We have given Rs. 30 lakhs for building and Rs. 20 lakhs for equipment. We have just started this. We have not yet been able to do this in the whole country. I have just stated that. As far as training programmes are concerned, I have arleady given the details in my reply as to how much has been done. I agree that we have to do much more.

डा० वाई० लक्ष्मी प्रसादः धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के अनुबंध में अनाज, गन्ने और रुई के बारे में बताया है लेकिन आम के बारे में, मैंगों क्रॉप के बारे में उन्होंने नहीं बताया है। Sir, you know very well that the Andhra mango is famous world-wide. Despite crores of rupees being spent on production of mango and despite environment-friendly pest control measures being practised, production of mango has not been up to the mark. There is enormous potential for mango export but due to lack of technology it is not being exploited. The major drawbacks responsible for inadequate export of mango are excess and indiscriminate use of pesticides and organic chemicals. Consumers in the European market reject food item forthwith if they smell chemicals in them. So, my question is whether the problems of mango farmers are proposed to be solved by introduction of environment-friendly pest control measures so that there is a boost to mango export? Also, will the scientists be urged to help overcome the problems of mango farmers?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Surely, Sir. It is in our scheme. Perhaps three or four days back it came out in the Press about the Andhra mango. I have directed DG, ICAR to look into it. We will certainly help them. But there are certain diseases for which the anti-virus and other such drugs are not yet ready. We are producing them. In the case of mango, it is being tried. We will do it.

मऊ शाहगंज रेलवे लाइन के आमान परिवर्तन के उद्घाटन को स्थगित किया जाना

*283. **श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खानः** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) मऊ शाहगंज रेलवे लाइन के आमान परिवर्तन के उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम को, जो 18 फरवरी, 1997 को होना था, स्थगित किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) उसका उद्घाटन कब होगा और इस लाइन पर कौन-कौन सी साधारण (पैसेंजर) तथा एक्सप्रेस रेलगाड़ियां कहां से कहां तक चलाए जाने का विचार है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) प्रश्न में उल्लिखित उद्घाटन की तिथि कभी भी निर्धारित नहीं की गई थी।

(ख) उद्घाटन की तिथि 27.03.1997 रखी गई है। जहां तक सेवाएं चलाने का संबंध है, प्रारंभ में मऊ और शाहगंज के बीच 2 जोड़ी पैसेंजर शटल शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव है।

श्री मोहम्मद मसूद खानः मुहतरम, मंत्री जी का बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया कि उन्होंने वक्त से पहले तो लाईन बनवा दी है लेकिन अब कह रहे हैं कि 18 फरवरी नहीं...ईश दत्त यादव यहां नहीं हैं.... हम लोगों को फरवरी में एजेंडा मिला था, मंत्री जी का प्रोग्राम मिला था कि मंत्री जी को शाहगंज में उद्घाटन करना है। बहरहाल मेरा सवाल यह है कि लाइन तो बन गई है लेकिन अगर ट्रेन चालू होती तो लोगों को आमदरफ्त की जो सहूलियत थी, वह मिलती और रेलवे को पैसा मिलता। आखिर लाईन बनने के बाद इतना डिले करने की क्या ज़रूरत है? अगर कोई मौका नहीं है तो कोई ऐसा सिस्टम रेलवे को इस्तेमाल करना चाहिए टेलीविज़न के